from several State Governments including Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to locate the headquarters in their Respective .States. **All** requests would be considered at appropriate time, if it is decided to relocate it away from Delhi.

Amount of Unpaid Debts

3268. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of unpaid debts (after due date) from Nationalised Bank to farmers, trade and industry as at present, separately;

(b) what is the total amount of dues to Banks from farmers, industry and trade written off during the last three years indicating separately the dues from corporate sector and individuals so written off; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to recover the Bank dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the information regarding amount of unpaid debts of banks, as sought for. However, information regarding the bad debts written off by public sector banks during the last three years in respect of Agriculture, Industry, Trade and Business, as reported by RBI, is given as under:

(Amount Rs. crore)

Year	Agriculture	Industry	Trade Business
1996-97	275.10	175.10	57.73
1997-98	626.60	477.48	97.17
1998-99	516.41	294.81	93.34

Information in respect of bad debts written off in respect of individuals and Corporate sector separately is not readily available with RBI.

(c) RBI has taken a number of steps to improve the recovery performance of banks. It has issued guidelines for improving the recovery performance, which relate to banks taking effective measures like strengthening and gearing up of organizational structure both at controlling offices and field level, adopting schematic approach to lending, toning up pre-lending appraisal system and post lending supervision techniques involving, inter-alia, constant contact with the beneficiaries to ensure that the defaults are brought down to minimum and launching of recovery drives with the help of State Government officials at

the block level. Banks have also been advised to create separate "Recovery Cell" for a cluster of nearby branches for continuous and effective supervision and recovery where overdues exceeds 50% of demand and agricultural advances are sizeable. Separate guidelines have also been issued to banks for providing relief measures/relaxations to various categories of borrowers affected by natural calamities such as drought, floods, etc., which include rescheduling/ rephasing of loans, extension of repayment period, etc. Banks have been advised to observe one day in a week as non-business working day for their rural branches and branch managers have to ensure that harvesting seasons are effectively used for recovery of dues. The prudential norms for income recognition and provisioning introduced recently would induce the banks to go in for quality advances and improve follow-up of their advances.

Hindi Typewriter in the Ministry of Finance

†3269: SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such Departments under the Ministry of Finance which don't have a single Hindi typewriter so far;

(b) the reasons for not purchasing the Hindi typewriter there so far and the Officers responsible for such kind of negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the compliance of targets fixed for the purchase of Hindi typewriter by the Department of Official language in its annual Hindi programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATEL): (a) Nil, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All the Departments/Divisions of this Ministry have been instructed to purchase bilingual Electronic typewriters/Computers as per the targets fixed by the Department of Official Language.

Harassment by Central Excise in Mumbai

3270. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.